



PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City is in compliance with drinking water regulations.

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing.

The City routinely monitors your water for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We routinely collect twenty samples for *coliform bacteria* each month. Three of those samples, taken in August 2013, showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The drinking water standard is that no more than one of our samples per month results in the presence of coliform bacteria.

What Happened? What is being done?

Chlorine demand in drinking water increased quite a bit due to unusually high river flow in August. Lower than normal distribution system chlorine residuals were detected during routine system monitoring and testing. The chlorine dosage has been increased to compensate for the higher than normal demand and the distribution system is being flushed. **Our most recent samples taken show no signs of coliform.**

What should you do?

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliform were found in more samples than allowed and this is a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliform are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing. If we had, we would have notified you immediately.

For additional information, please contact Don Cole at 505-454-1533 or 905 12th Street, Las Vegas, NM.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.